



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

No. 137

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHELTON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Our friend, Rabbi Leslie Gutterman, rabbi for 40 years of the Temple Beth El in Providence, RI, will now lead the Senate in prayer.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

O God, whose spirit is with us in every righteous act, invoke Your blessing upon the elected representatives of our government. Enlighten with Your wisdom those whom the people have entrusted with the guardianship of our rights and liberties.

On this day, proclaimed as the International Day of Democracy, we pray that our country may ever be a beacon of freedom, justice, and peace. We pray for those in other lands who are oppressed and persecuted.

Grant that this new day not be lost to us. May it be filled with Your purpose and our labors rewarded by the satisfaction gained by all who pursue a life of righteousness, virtue, and honor. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHELTON WHITEHOUSE led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 15, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELTON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico). The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield the floor to the Senator from Rhode Island at this time.

WELCOMING RABBI GUTTERMAN

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to thank and commend Senator WHITEHOUSE for inviting Rabbi Leslie Gutterman here to deliver the prayer.

Les Gutterman has been an extraordinary figure in our State, a man of great wisdom, compassion and kindness, who has, since 1970, contributed extraordinarily to the State of Rhode Island and to the people of Rhode Island.

His congregation goes far beyond denominational lines. He is literally the rabbi for everyone. In fact, he is my rabbi, and I am pleased and proud to say that.

Mr. President, again, I am delighted to welcome Rabbi Gutterman here today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, it is a great honor and a great pleasure to join my senior Senator JACK REED in welcoming Rabbi Leslie Gutterman from Providence, RI, here onto the

Senate floor to open the Senate on this day by leading us in prayer.

Rabbi Gutterman is a personal friend, but he is more than that. He is a person of real significance in the Rhode Island community. He has served as the rabbi of Temple Beth El for 40 years, which means he has officiated at the weddings of the children of people whose bar mitzvahs at which he officiated, and he has officiated at the bar mitzvahs of the grandchildren of people whose weddings at which he officiated. He is an important part of the Rhode Island community. He has been described as a community asset and a moral compass for Rhode Island. In addition, he is just a beautiful person.

He and his wife Janet have come here today to join us, and we are very proud and delighted that we could share this moment of the morning with our colleagues and with Rabbi Gutterman.

I yield the floor back to the majority leader with great pride in the presence of Rabbi Gutterman on our floor this morning.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business for 1 hour. The majority will control the first half and the Republicans will control the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.J. Res. 66, which is a joint resolution regarding Burma sanctions and the legislative vehicle for additional FEMA funding. The filing deadline for all first-degree amendments to the substitute amendment and to H.J. Res. 66 is 1 p.m. today. I filed cloture on the substitute amendment and on H.J. Res. 66 last night. If no agreement is reached, there will be a cloture vote on the substitute amendment on tomorrow morning. We hope to reach an

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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